

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02
/025 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JHLEWIS:LFS
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
-----035713 020701Z /21
R 020158Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CD, US, EAID

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF FOODSTUFFS TO CHAD

REF: STATE 139469

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ON 7/1/77 DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM CHADIAN EMBASSY PROVIDING GOC CURRENT ASSESSMENT RE SUBJECT. THE TRANSLATION OF THE NOTE IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND, FOLLOWING UP ON THE CONVERSATION OF TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1977, BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TALCOTT SEELYE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, AND HIS EXCELLENCY PIERRE TOURA GABA, AMBASSADOR OF CHAD, HAS THE HONOR TO GIVE IT THE LATEST INFORMATION OBTAINED AT THE END OF LAST WEEK REGARDING THE SITUATION OF FOODSTUFFS FOR COMBATTING THE (EFFECTS OF THE) DROUGHT.

A. OF THE 32,325 TONS OF FOOD PROVIDED FOR, 7,008 TONS,
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INCLUDING 2,838 TONS FROM THE UNITED STATES, HAVE REACHED NDJAMENA. OF THOSE 7,008 TONS, 6,015 HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN THE AFFECTED ZONES.

B. MORE THAN 10,000 TONS OF FOOD ARE STILL ON HAND AT DOUALA.

C. TRUCKS OF THE C.T.T. (COOPERATIVES DES TRANSPORTEURS

TCHADIENS) (CHADIAN CARRIERS COOPERATIVES) TRANSPORTING SUPPLIES ON THE NGAOUNDERE-NDJAMENA ROUTE HAVE BEEN JOINED BY THOSE OF THE D.L.C.C.N. (DIRECTION FE LA LUTTE CONTRE LAS CALAMITES NATURELLES) (OFFICE FOR COMBATTING NATURAL DISASTERS) AND OF THE F.D.A.R. (FONDS DE DEVELOPPEMENT ET D'ACTION RURALE) (DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL ACTION FUND), WHICH WILL PERMIT THE RAILROAD CARS TO BE FREED QUITE RAPIDLY.

D. FOODSTUFFS COMING FROM SUDAN ARE BLOCKED AT NYALA BECAUSE OF THE RAINS.

E. THE MINIMUM INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION OF FOODSTUFFS IS JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO RAIN HEAVILY AT NDJAMENA.

THE EMBASSY IS TROUBLED BY THE FACT THAT, OWING TO THE LACK OF A RAPID SOLUTION TO TRANSPORTING THE FOODSTUFFS THAT CERTAIN FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE CHADIAN VICTIMS, THOSE FOODSTUFFS WILL END UP BEING UNUSABLE EITHER THROUGH SPOILAGE OR BECAUSE OF LOSS EN ROUTE.

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT AIR FREIGHT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND IN CHAD IN PARTICULAR, IS VERY EXPENSIVE. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS SACRIFICES THAT THE AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENT IS MAKING ON BEHALF OF THE THIRD WORLD AND IT DOES NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO CREATE EXPENSES FOR IT THAT ARE NOT OF A HUMANITARIAN NATURE.

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THE PROBLEM OF THE AIR TRANSPORT OF FOODSTUFFS. END QUOTE.

2. WE APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR BRADFORD'S RECENT REPORTING CABLES AND OFFICIAL-INFORMAL RE SUBJECT, HOWEVER BEFORE RESPONDING TO CHADIAN EMBASSY NOTE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BENEFITING FROM BILL PEARSON'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AS WELL AS HIS VIEWS REGARDING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN NOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, FOOD ASSISTANCE, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE154484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHLEWIS:LFS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770236-1039
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770795/aaaadeoh.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4d8f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 139469
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1976107
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOVEMENT OF FOODSTUFFS TO CHAD
TAGS: EAID, CD, US
To: NDJAMENA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4d8f071-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009